

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002145/26
to the Commission
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(26 May 2026)

Subject: The Commission's letter concerning Italy's hunting decree-law

According to several Italian animal welfare associations and press sources ⁽¹⁾, the Commission sent a formal letter to the Italian Government on 18 December 2025 highlighting a number of issues with Draft Law No 1552, which is supposed to amend Law No 157/1992 on the protection of wild fauna.

The Commission has highlighted certain serious infringements of Directives 2009/147/EC (Birds) and 92/43/EEC (Habitats) contained in the draft law, particularly the provisions which extend hunting periods, allow for the use of optical devices for night hunting and lift certain restrictions concerning the use of live decoys — all of which could lead to an uptick in poaching and wildlife trafficking. The formal letter's biggest concern is the fact that the Draft Law No 1552 is proposing to water down the role played by the Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA), whose opinions would no longer be binding.

Though these provisions have been flagged as problematic, they have not undergone substantial changes as Draft Law No 1552 continues its passage through the Italian Parliament.

In the light of the above, we ask the Commission:

1. Has the Italian Government formally replied to the queries contained in the Commission's communication of 18 December 2025 and what clarifications or commitments, if any, has it made?
2. Does the Commission think that the law in its present form could be at odds with EU law and trigger infringement proceedings?

Submitted: 26.5.2026

Answer given by Ms Roswall on behalf of the European Commission
(25 August 2026)

The Italian authorities have replied to the Commission's queries posed on draft law no. 1552 on hunting and indicated that they are considering proposing amendments to the legislators in light of the Commission's observations. The Commission is currently assessing in detail the response of the Italian authorities.

The Commission received complaints about draft law no. 1552. The draft provisions publicly available were preliminarily assessed against the relevant requirements of the Birds ⁽¹⁾ and Habitats ⁽²⁾ Directives and aspects that may not be compatible with the EU rules were identified. As mentioned above, in order to clarify the context, the relevant competent Italian authorities were contacted.

This is part of the Commission's close cooperation with the national authorities, within its efforts to support them in ensuring early compliance with EU rules and prevent breaches from emerging ⁽³⁾.

¹ https://www.corriere.it/animali/animali-selvatici/26_maggio_06/lettera-ue-al-governo-contro-la-riforma-della-caccia-le-associazioni-svelano-i-richiami-di-bruxelles-a42351bb-7d41-4698-8130-3caccb7cbxik.shtml.

⁽¹⁾ Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds, OJ L 20, 26.1.2010, pp. 7-25.

⁽²⁾ Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. OJ L 206, 22.7.1992, pp. 7-50.

⁽³⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/law/application-eu-law/implementing-eu-law_en.